THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As on 1.4.2007, 33 tea gardens were reported to be closed, of these 30 tea gardens have tea factories which were also closed. The depressed price situation since mid 1999 coupled with other factors like high cost of production, low prices of tea, ownership disputes etc., have affected the viability of tea gardens resulting in the closure of these gardens and their factories.

(d) The Government has recently announced a rehabilitation package for closed tea gardens. Persistent efforts of both Central and State Governments have resulted in opening of ten closed tea gardens recently. However, for opening of tea factories, adequate green leaf inflow is required. After prolonged closure the plantations require some time and care to come to full production. The factories would also require repairing and overhauling. Once the closed tea gardens open and their normal activities are resumed, the factories would start working soon after.

Sanction of land to the multinational companies

2295. DR. VUAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land sanctioned by Government to the multinational companies in the outskirts of Bangalore;

(b) the extent of land acquired by Government for development of Information Technology and Bio-Technology;

(c) the extent of land sanctioned to the various companies (company-wise details be furnished); and

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the farmers who have lost their land after land acquisition (details be furnished)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on import of Indian traditional medicines

2296. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some countries like Australia, US and UK have banned Indian traditional medicines due to higher toxic metal content;

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have made any regulatory monitoring system to test the metallic content mandatory for traditional drugs meant for exports;

(d) whether those medicines which are banned by these countries are presently in domestic use; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?